

# THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

## COLONIAL JOURNAL.

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### THREE MODES FOR SUPPRESSING THE SLAVE TRADE.

WE cannot too often nor too solemnly call the attention of our readers to the fact, that the slave trade, in all its infamy, is at the present moment going on and flourishing, and extending to a most lamentable degree. There ought to break forth from every part of this country, nay from every part of the civilized world, a burst of indignation at the continuance of such cruelties! Such positive, unmitigated evil as is practised in that disgraceful traffic, ought to be denounced by the voice of every enlightened nation, and driven from the earth. Those who are engaged in this accursed trade are tearing out the very bowels of the African continent! They are enacting cruelties which have never been surpassed in either hemisphere, by all the blood-stained, gold-defiled annals of Spain and Portugal, in ages gone by, and for which those nations have earned an unenviable name of infamy, surpassing that earned by the most sordid and cruel of the human race. It is computed that at this very moment, *twenty thousand* human beings, crowded in the small and narrow slave ships, are floating on the ocean between the land from which they have been torn and the mart to which they are destined. What a stream of horror! What cries, what groans must fill the air along their whole course! How many are just breathing their last! How many just cast overboard! Who can number the accumulated horrors on which the sun must daily look?

"Waves! what have ye heard on that ancient coast,  
Where Egypt the might of her fame did boast?  
Where the statue of Memnon saluted the morn,  
And the pyramids tower in their giant scorn?"  
"We have heard the curse of the slave ship's crew,  
And the shriek of the chain'd, as the shores withdrew."

Without here going at all into detail, suffice it to say that the horrors of the slave trade, as now carried on, are so gigantic and shocking to humanity, as to call loudly for some relief. One of the most difficult problems which the benevolent have had to solve, has been as regards the means to be employed most likely to cure this tremendous evil. Two

or three different systems of policy have been adopted—others have been contemplated. Dreams have been dreamed—visions have been seen—bold imaginations have been put forth—and then men have marvelled that the slave trade did not cease! We think it is not strange that it still continues. And we propose impartially to examine the leading policies which have been adopted for the suppression of this fearful evil; and thence to draw the inference that the one which has done and promises to do the most, demands the cordial support of every friend of the human race.

There are three principal schemes advocated in different circles. 1st. The employment of a naval force. 2d. The destruction of slavery, and thus to cut off the demand for slaves. 3d. The Colonization of the African coast, and regeneration of the native tribes.

A few facts connected with each of these schemes may serve to show their relative importance.

1st. It will be recollected that in 1807 and 1808 a strong effort was made to put an end to the slave trade. The American Congress laid hold of the subject with a giant grasp. That body of noble minded men showed an anxious desire to put an end to the trade at the earliest hour the Constitution would permit. Certain acts were passed, and a plan was agreed upon between the American and British Governments, in which the French, Spanish, and Portuguese, were afterwards included.

That plan confined the right of search and seizure, and bringing into port for condemnation, ships taken in this employment, to the cruisers of the United States and of Great Britain. It was thought, however, that some good effect would result from holding out a strong inducement to the officers commanding men-of-war to capture slavers. Hence a bounty was offered in order to quicken their diligence and zeal in the performance of this excellent office. They were allowed not only to share in the captured vessel as a prize, but also to receive five pounds per head for every slave taken on board.

Now let us mark how this additional inducement has operated. It did not relax the diligence of those who commanded the cruisers against those desperate miscreants to whose hands this traffic of murder and felony was intrusted. It did not make them less vigilant in watching the slave ships—but it did make them unwilling to capture an empty vessel. For the purpose of obtaining the largest possible sum of *head-money*, the cruisers had a direct and evident interest in not seizing the slave ship till she had gone into port and gotten her cargo of slaves on board. It is the clear interest of the cruisers that the slave ship should have a full cargo of “heads”—that she should sail from the African coast—and that *till then she should not be captured*. The vessel goes toward the coast fitted up with all the horrid means of carrying on this felonious traffic. She has abundance of chains and fetters for the intended victims—and all the infernalé of a slave ship. She is allowed to make her way unmolested *toward* the coast. No step is taken by the cruisers to prevent the captives

from being put on board. Of late there has been one or two exceptions. But as a universal rule the cruisers do not go to the port where the slaver is about to take in slaves. The practice is for the cruiser to lie off so far that she can barely keep the harbor in sight, while she herself cannot be seen from the harbor. There she watches the slaver, while committing the crime of tearing these poor creatures from the land that gave them birth.

If it were as *profitable* for the cruiser to take the slaver *empty* as *full*, can we believe she would thus lie still and see the work of death commence in circumstances when she could easily and certainly arrest it? If the only motive by which the cruiser is governed is to break up the traffic and save the children of Africa in their own land, would she allow the slaver quietly to take his cargo on board, weigh his anchor, spread his canvass to the breeze, and take his chance upon the broad ocean, with a vessel built expressly for speed?

Here then we see one radical defect in this scheme. Until the award of head-money is taken away, and the cruisers made to act upon a high sense of duty and an inveterate horror of the slave trade, and an invincible determination to break it up, nothing of good will be accomplished.

Even more than this is manifestly true. Under the clumsy and preposterous course which has been adopted, this disgraceful traffic has become more and more flourishing, more and more extensive, and more and more cruelties have been perpetrated.

It is only necessary here to state the fact that the slave trade has been increasing rapidly during the last few years. In a single year eighty-five slave ships were fitted out at the Havana, seventy-five of which returned safely with cargoes on board varying from one hundred and fifty to seven hundred and eighty to each vessel.

Do the slavers never escape? A more pertinent question would be, are they ever caught?

A remark ought to be made in this connexion in regard to the effect of a capture on the slaves in the ship. Is their condition made better? Are they essentially benefitted? This certainly admits of doubt. One would think that in justice they ought to be restored to their homes and their friends in Africa, and have appropriated to their benefit the vessel and goods on board. But a policy far otherwise prevails. If the slaver is caught in the neighborhood of the Islands, the treaty between England and Spain provides that the vessel shall be taken into port to be tried by the court of "mixed commissions," that is, half British and half Spanish, and if she is condemned the captives are taken by the laws of Spain, made under the treaty, and apprenticed out on the plantations of the neighborhood. They are instructed, by the priests, in religion, and after a certain time, are baptised and receive christian names. When the time of their apprenticeship has expired, the priests always report the captive Africans *dead* and *buried*, (dead to their old name, and buried in baptism,) while the fact is,



that under their new names they have been actually sold into perpetual slavery. So their condition is ultimately the same as if they had never been captured by the cruiser. What then has been gained to the cause of benevolence, humanity and freedom, by this operation? Nothing! But on the contrary the world has been convinced that all such efforts to put down the slave trade, originate in selfishness, and that those engaged in making them, are satisfied when the head-money is obtained.

If the slaver is caught on the African coast, the poor victims on board fare no better. She is carried to Sierra Leone, and, if condemned, the officers receive their five pounds a head for all the slaves on board. But the slaves—are they carried back to their own part of the coast, or sent to their own tribe? By no means. A part of them, all who are well built and of good constitution, are enlisted in the British army, and in a few months they are taught to turn their toes out and carry their head and shoulders erect, and are first-rate British soldiers, and from that day till the day of their death they cannot call themselves their own—they are to all intents and purposes the bond-slaves of the British Government.

But the inferior men and the women and children on board, are sold for about \$1 50 each, to an apprenticeship of seven years in the Sierra Leone Colony, and very few of them are to be found there when their time is out. It is known to be a fact, that many of them are carried across to the Bullom shore, where are always to be found petty slave traders who belong to, or communicate with, the large factories on the coast, who buy them, and they are soon again shipped on board the slaver; and all the good done to them by the capture is, to give them the privilege of undergoing the torture of reshipment and a second exposure.

How many of those who are apprenticed out are thus sold again to the slaver, we have not the means of knowing. There are, however, reasons for believing that the number is very large. While the commander of one of our men-of-war was at Sierra Leone, there was one man taken on board a slaver, who proved to the satisfaction of the court that he had been recaptured four times. Three times then he must have been apprenticed out, and three times carried to the Bullom shore and sold to the slaver!

A gentleman of great respectability and unimpeachable veracity, while at the Havana last spring, went on board a slave ship that had just arrived from the coast of Africa with a large cargo of slaves. Passing among them he heard several speaking the English language. Surprised at this, he inquired where they were from, and was answered from the "Colony of Sierra Leone." There they were, with all the marks of native born Africans, speaking the English language, and yet captives brought from Africa on board of a slave ship!

We must again put the question, what benefit is there in a capture? What does the cause of humanity gain? What does Africa gain? What actual good is accomplished by the cruisers engaged in this service? We see it is no part of their plan to restore the captive African to his home!

They do not endeavor to convince the natives that it is wrong to sell their "kith and kin." They do not lighten the woes to which the captives are subject. What good then, in the name of humanity, what good do they perform? Is one tear less shed? Is one groan less heard, or one sigh less heaved? Who can tell? Who that can, may.

But we pass on to consider the manner in which all such efforts to break up this traffic increases its horrors, and inevitably exasperates the miseries to which its unhappy victims are subjected.

From the peculiar policy pursued by the cruisers, the only or the chief danger to the slaver is in being run down in a fair chase and thus caught. Hence the great object in the construction and outfitting of a slave ship is *swiftness of sailing*. To this end every other consideration is sacrificed. Any thing like comfort or humanity for the slaves never enters into the thought of those who are engaged in this mystery of iniquity. The vessel is not constructed on the principle necessary for carrying passengers. She is made as narrow as possible—being only broad enough to give her a hold of the water with her sails set. Her between-decks is, indeed must be, so narrow, that the slaves have to be forced in by absolute pressure, as if they were dead goods. Jammed thus into the smallest, tightest place possible, the miseries they endure are unutterable!

Who then does not see that if this system of operations was altered or abandoned, the slavers would be built differently, more room would be allowed, and the health and comfort of the slaves on board vastly promoted?

This brings us to another part of this enormous system of robbery and murder. When a slaver is chased by a cruiser and is in danger of being seized, she must be lightened. And as the slaves on board are less valuable than any other part of the cargo, the heaviest of them are thrown overboard first. If more is necessary in trying to escape the pursuing cruiser, men, women and children are hurried overboard without remorse, and in numbers proportionate to the danger. In some instances, when seizure becomes certain, every slave on board is thrown over, in the hope that the cruiser finding no chance for head-money will let her pass, and then she can return to port, take on board another cargo, and try again. The slaves are thrown over with the fetters that were placed on them before they were brought on board. To lessen the chance of their escape, they are sometimes cast in, fetters and all, in large companies. And to insure their sinking before the cruiser can come and pick them up, weights are sometimes added to sink them immediately.

But this is not the only mode of lightening the vessel. Often three or four slaves are crowded into a cask, which is thrown over with weights attached to it. One vessel threw over twelve such casks before she was captured. One vessel had five hundred slaves on board and threw them all over. These scenes occur principally on the Western African station. And it is said that even the sharks know this field of blood-shed; they are often known to follow the slave ship from the port; and the track of that

ship could be traced across the Atlantic by the blood of its murdered victims hurled into the ocean to facilitate escape from its pursuers. What multiplied atrocities attend this horrid system! Sometimes disease arises from their crowded and confined condition, and whole companies of them die. And often when one or two of a company of fettered slaves die on board, the corpse is left bound to the survivors, so that they realize the very last infliction of the horrific, as described by the great Roman poet:

"Mortua quin etiam gungebat corpora vivis."

If we were asked to what we ascribe these enormities, we would reply, to the system of allowing head-money on the recapture of slaves. Take this away, and the cruisers will go and blockade the ports and seize the slavers as they are coming in, or before the slaves are taken on board; and thus these victims of cruelty and death will be left in their own country: or remove entirely the cruisers from the Atlantic, and the slaves will have comparatively a safe and happy passage.

If we mistake not we have established incontrovertibly, that this whole system, pursued for the suppression of the slave trade, is fundamentally in error, and can never attain the desired end. As prosecuted thus far, it has only increased the amount, and immeasurably aggravated the miseries, of the traffic. The whole policy then had better be changed or abolished entirely. We can entertain no reasonable expectations of overturning this gigantic evil through its agency. Erroneous in itself, its operations must always be attended with disappointment and disaster. We are driven to the fearful conviction that it is in a great degree responsible for the extent of the trade, and intensity of its miseries and the awful havoc it makes of human life.

We are therefore led to inquire, is there not some other system which can be adopted with better prospects of success?

2. This brings us to consider the second scheme which has been proposed, viz. *The destruction of slavery in order to cut off the demand for slaves.*

Here, however, the specific plans of operation are so indefinite, and the ideas of their advocates so confused, that it is difficult to ascertain precisely what they intend. There is only one fact on record in the premises—one substantial reality that we can take hold of and reason about; and that is, the British emancipation act in the West Indies. In regard to this we may remark that, thus far, certainly, it has not had any beneficial influence on the slave trade; for, it has not in the least diminished the demand for slave labor. On this point the *London Quarterly Review* for March, 1839, holds this language: "the slave emancipation has given an extraordinary impulse to the slave trade, and weakened the hopes of seeing it crushed." On this same point Buxton remarks: "strange as it may seem, this trade is rendered more active, and the demand for slaves increased, not only by the operation of the law for its suppression, but by the emancipation act for the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies."



The emancipated negroes failing to work, there was a failure in the staple products of those islands: consequently this deficiency must be supplied from other quarters—hence the demand for slaves from Africa must be greatly increased. Thus far, then, the destruction of slavery has only, and greatly, augmented the slave trade. Nor is this all. It has given rise to a new species of depredations on the African race.

Mr. McQUEEN, in his "letter to Lord JOHN RUSSELL regarding the slave trade," makes this portentous inquiry, page 58: "Will not the Brazils and other countries, admitting they agree to put down the open and *bona fide* African slave trade, resort to the means of carrying away from Africa (as some of them are, I hear, now doing, or about to do) laborers, under the name of free laborers? Can England prevent this? No!" We presume Mr. McQ. little suspected when he asked this question and deeply deprecated such a course, that in so short a time his own country would have set the example of "carrying away from Africa laborers under the name of free laborers." From the manner in which he asks the question, we can see how disastrous to Africa he believed such a result would prove. And yet, what was anticipation then, has become matter of history now. But the evil arises from another source than he expected. In order to carry on her agricultural operations in the West Indies, England has actually begun to import native African laborers to cultivate the plantations abandoned by the recently emancipated slaves. It thus seems the British have found a use for their recaptured Africans, and are in a way to turn their *benevolence* to particular profit. We would ask again what advantage does the poor African gain by being captured on board the slaver, carried to Sierra Leone, and there re-shipped *voluntarily*, to be sure, for the West Indies? Who believes that they can be induced to come to the West Indies, unless deception or force is employed? But suppose they do—in what will their condition differ in the least from the veriest slaves, except in name?

It is impossible for us to look upon this movement in any other light than as a continuance of the slave trade, only called by another name. What does Africa gain by this operation? The truth is not to be concealed and cannot be disguised, that all such exertions in the cause of Africa will only terminate in extending the miseries of that continent; they will plunge her into a state of deeper barbarism, will impoverish and weaken her, only to build up and enrich a foreign nation. This is indeed a sad, a deplorable state of things; a dark and gloomy picture, at the sight of which humanity must mourn, and every friend of Africa ought to weep.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact, nor our ears to the truth, that to hope to abolish the slave trade in this way, is to hope for what is utterly impracticable; and it is attempting to accomplish it by a process which is decidedly wrong and unjustifiable.

All external efforts to put down the slave trade made during the last thirty years "have not only failed," as Mr. McQ. says, "TOTALLY AND

SIGNALLY FAILED, but have tended to aggravate and increase in every way this mighty and destructive evil." This proves them to have been wrong, and not applicable to the disease which they were administered to remove. It is in vain to deny, or attempt to conceal, the fact. Even admitting that by any external means the slave trade could be wholly abolished, still the desired work is not done. Africa is left untouched—her wounds unhealed—her malady uncured. "To heal up an ulcer," some one remarks, "is not to cure it." Slavery and a slave trade forms a general law in Africa. Whoever then would operate successfully, must enter Africa itself, for there the mighty evils exist—there they are planted and grow, and stand in all their strength. To cut off the branches is of little value. The roots must be dug up. The heart of the natives must be entered and changed—their passions must be schooled—their manners and pursuits turned from mischievous to useful pursuits.

3. This brings us to consider the third plan for abolishing the slave trade, viz. the Colonization of the African coast, and regeneration of the native tribes; which had its origin in the efforts of the American Colonization Society, and has already been successfully tried. What of good is to be done to Africa, and for Africa, must be done *in* Africa. She must be the field of her regeneration. That Colonization will accomplish this regeneration, we think is established by the experiment which we have made. The Colony has already done something toward abolishing the slave trade. Before it was planted, that whole coast was literally lined with slave factories. More than two thousand slaves were annually carried away from Messurado and Cape Mount. Bassa Cove was also a large slave mart until the year 1834, when the Society purchased the territory and broke up the factory. Between five and six thousand were shipped annually from it. Indeed it was the centre of an extensive and rapid trade. Little Bassa was also a slave factory. In 1839 Gov. BUCHANAN marched the troops of Monrovia down there, broke up the station, burned down their factory, and put an end to the trade in all the region. According to the best calculation which can be made, the Colony saves annually to Africa twenty thousand of her children who would have been carried from her territory into bondage if it had not been planted there! If we can raise the means to purchase the territory north of Monrovia, and that lying between our settlements on the coast, the Colony will then command more than three hundred miles of seaboard, and effectually suppress the slave trade to that extent. Not only so. There are now a very large number of native kings who have entered into treaties of peace and friendship with the Colony, and have stipulated forever to abolish the slave trade in their borders. It is impossible to calculate the number that are actually kept back from slavery through the influence of these treaties. This, however, is certain, that a change of sentiment is going forward on this subject among the natives. Those who formerly would sell their kindred as soon as they would any article of merchandize, now would as soon cut off a right



hand or pluck out a right eye, as sell a fellow creature to the slaver ! This is the process by which we hope to see the slave trade abolished. Not by rendering it hazardous for the slavers to carry them away, not by cutting off the demand for them in other countries ; but by rendering it impossible to buy them, because the minds of the natives are changed, and they have abandoned, of choice, and under the force of conscience, the horrible traffic. And there is no other way of securing this result than the one we are pursuing.

The view we have here taken of the character and operations of the American Colonization Society, cannot fail to interest most deeply every benevolent heart. The Colony it has planted forms a bright and powerful centre of civilization and religion. How mighty must be its operations and influence on the surrounding nations of Africa ! What a heaven-bound bulwark it presents against the men of blood who have so long infested that shore and bound its children in chains ! How rapid must be the triumphs of the Gospel in such circumstances ! How marked and manifest to the world must be the glory of its results, coming in contact with the strongest powers of earth and hell, and vanquishing them, when all the arts and devices of men, all their implements of war and conquest, had utterly and signally failed !

What an appeal then does this cause make to every patriot, philanthropist and christian in our land ! Something has already been contributed in its aid. But does not a work so great in itself, so auspicious in its promise, and so brilliant in its achievements, demand something more ? Ought not rent, torn Africa, to have a larger share in the affections ? Will not the earnest appeal, the importunate cry from the thousands congregated on board the slave ships, be regarded with deeper interest, and arouse the dormant feelings of every American citizen ? " If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain ; if thou sayest, behold I know it not ; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it, and He that keepeth thy soul, doth He not know it, and shall not He render to every man according to his works ? " Reader ! do you not know it ? Have you delivered them ? Can you not redeem some poor African that is " drawn unto death," and restore him to the land of his fathers ? Can you not do something more to rescue " those that are ready to be slain," and to kindle up amidst their dark and benighted dwellings a light of liberty and religion which shall never be extinguished ? Come then, nobly, generously come, help us to redeem a nation from oppression, and to beautify it with righteousness ! Come, lay up a treasure in this cause ! It shall never rust ! It will gather interest in the gratitude and thanks of a nation—a continent disenthralled.

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Washington City, August 15, 1841.

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DIRECTOR FOR LIFE.

WE take pleasure in announcing that FRANCIS GRIFFIN, Esq., of Washington county, Mississippi, has constituted himself a Director for Life of the American Colonization Society, by the payment of one thousand dollars (\$1000) on the Fifth of July, ult.

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AGENTS.

T. J. SHEPHERD, Esq., of this city, has been appointed an Agent of this Society for Virginia. We trust he will meet a warm reception from our numerous friends in that State.

L. T. WALKER, Esq., of this city, has accepted an Agency for this Society, and has proceeded to Tennessee, in company with SION HARRIS, a Colonist, from that State, who has resided ten years in Liberia, and visits his native place to take his friends with him to Liberia. He is one of the persons who so valiantly defended the Missionary station at Heddington.

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NEW PUBLICATION.—“*Letter to the Hon. HENRY CLAY, President of the American Colonization Society, and Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Chairman of the General Committee of the African Civilization Society, on the Colonization and Civilization of Africa.—With other Documents on the same subject.*—By R. R. GURLEY.—London, Wiley & Putnam, 1841.”

THE above is the title of a pamphlet of sixty-six pages, which has just been laid on our table. It is written in Mr. GURLEY's usual felicitous style, and abounds in passages of great beauty and eloquence. It embraces a wide range of subjects, some of which are of a controversial character. It was called for, as the author suggests, by the circumstances in which he found himself placed. In the preface he says, “I regret extremely that I have been favored with so few opportunities of explaining the views and policy of the American Colonization Society to the British public, and that means have not been afforded me for defraying the expenses necessarily connected with the plans and preparations for large meetings.”—Again he says, “I visited Scotland, and sought every proper occasion, among her hospitable and high-minded people, to correct the prevalent errors in regard to the Colonization Society, and to commend its principles and philanthropy to their benevolent and reflecting minds. Though no general sympathy was shown in the cause which I advocated, I received many civilities and kind attentions, for which my thanks are due.”

“I subsequently submitted the views of the American Colonization Society to the General Committee of the African Civilization Society, expressed to them the warm interest felt by the Society I had the honor to represent in their cause and proceedings, but received from them no

cordial responses or proofs of reciprocal regard. There was courteous attention, a decent respect, and liberty to retire!"

Under these circumstances Mr. G. thought some publication setting forth the purposes and accomplishments of American Colonization was demanded; and hence the pamphlet now before us. We give below some of its finest passages. Much of it is filled up with letters, documents, and an address, which have before been published in this country.

"There is much variety as well as peculiarity of misfortune in the condition of the African race. The great majority of this people still inhabit their ancient land of Africa, broken up into almost innumerable tribes, differing, to some extent, in complexion, customs, knowledge, and superstitions, slightly united by social ties, governed by arbitrary chiefs with little form of law, and generally and deeply degraded by long-prevalent barbarism, the rites of a debasing religion, by slavery and the slave trade. Estimates of the population of Africa have varied from sixty millions to one hundred and fifty millions, and probably the exact number lies between these two extremes. This vast population is spread over a country of great extent and fertility, abundant in resources, penetrated by many large navigable rivers, and blessed with rich advantages for agriculture and commerce with civilized nations.

"A portion of this race occupy the British West Indian Islands, with advantages and encouragements for improvement, having been raised by the power of the English Government from slavery to freedom.

"Another portion (not exceeding probably altogether, including the free blacks of Mexico, five millions) exist as slaves in the Brazils, Cuba, and the French, Spanish, Portuguese, Danish, and Dutch colonial possessions in various parts of the globe.

"Another portion (about 3,000,000) are in the United States, the majority in slavery in the Southern States of the union, and about half a million free and scattered throughout all the States.

"Finally, a considerable number (though less we presume than are in the same condition in Christian countries) are in slavery in the Mahomedan empire.

"From this brief and very imperfect survey, it is evident that the whole number of Africans in exile in all parts of the world is small compared with that of those still residing on the soil of Africa. For can we doubt, from the facts and statements exhibited in the recent work on the slave trade and its remedy, that the greatest physical evils endured by the African race result from the slave trade, which, though utterly condemned by the general opinions and laws of Christian nations, is nevertheless prosecuted by avarice and inhumanity to an unprecedented extent, attended by the most shockingly criminal and cruel acts, and an immense waste of human life. Nearly or quite half a million of wretched Africans are annually torn from their homes, a moiety of whom perish in capture, during their march to the coast, in the holds of slave-ships on their passage across the ocean, or during the first trials of toil and exposure in a foreign climate. In view of an evil so terrible, so enormous, it becomes all humane and Christian men, immediately, solemnly, and with their might, to exert themselves to discover and apply the remedy; and, unmindful of minor differences of sentiment and all merely personal considerations, to unite in measures the most efficient for the relief of such inexpressible miseries, and the redress of such atrocious wrongs as are involved in the slave trade. Yet as the source and seat of this trade is in the barbarism and degradation



of Africa, all measures will prove, we fear, but palliative of the evil, which do not include as an end the civilization and elevation of the African race. The great inquiry should be, I conceive, *How shall the greatest good, in the shortest time, be conferred upon the greatest number of this afflicted and injured people?*" \* \* \*

"I have expressed the opinion that the Colonization of free persons of color, with their own consent, in Africa, on the principles developed in the establishment and progress of Liberia, is of all plans, practicable at present, most deserving support in England and America, because of highest utility and promise to the African race.

"The history of the Colony of Liberia, though brief, is full of interest and instruction to the student of human nature, and particularly to those philanthropists who seek to civilize Africa, and elevate the minds of her children. GRANVILLE SHARP, Dr. FOTHERGILL, and their associates, had founded Sierra Leone. The rude materials with which they commenced their work, and extraordinary disasters, soon compelled them to commit the destinies of this Colony to the English Government; and though it looks out brightly and encouragingly from the African shore, it has hardly fulfilled the best hopes of its earliest friends. The Colony of Liberia owes its existence to a benevolent American Society, has no connexion with the Government, and from it has derived but occasional, and compared with that of individuals, but small aid. The wise and good men who, twenty-four years ago, organized the American Colonization Society, proposed a plan of benevolence to the African race so simple, and unobjectionable, that the citizens of the whole United States might contribute to its support, so powerful in its tendencies of good in all directions and comprehensive in its promised beneficence as to want, in theory, at least, little if any thing of perfection. The plan was, to purchase from the African chiefs a suitable and sufficiently extended territory, and to assist such bold and energetic free men of color residing in the United States, as might desire to emigrate, to found thereon a free and Christian State, which, from the nature of its institutions, the development of its principles and resources, and the discipline of its circumstances must strengthen and elevate the intellect and moral character of its citizens; by example and endeavors plant and propagate civilization and Christian doctrine in Africa; suppress the slave trade; react powerfully on America to promote emancipation by means disconnected from danger, demanded by general justice, and fraught with blessings never yet attained by it, to the liberated Africans and to their race; thus showing by experiment and demonstrating in fact, how this race may cast off the incumbrances and entanglements of their thralldom, and self-respected, because deserving praise, stand in dignity and honor before the world. It is the peculiar excellency of this plan, that for its success, reliance is mainly placed upon the ability of the descendants and people of Africa themselves, when favored in position and stimulated by high motives, to rise from their degradation, assume a national character, and secure prosperity and a name among the nations. The purpose of the Society has been to place the objects of its bounty in such a position, and supply to them such motives. Poor are the richest endowments of fortune, compared with the acquisitions of the mind. Worthless are the distinctions which others may confer upon us compared with those we may by great acts and great endurance achieve for ourselves. It has been by toil and trial, by suffering and conflict, by self-denial and self-discipline, by hazardous adventure, and often by the iron hand of necessity, that individuals and nations have ascended from weakness, obscurity and disgrace, to power and grandeur.

"Since a band of persecuted pilgrims, impelled by concern for the rights of conscience and the truths of God, first trod the icy and rock-bound coast of New England, few events of higher moral interest or sublimity have occurred than the establishment of the Colony of Liberia. Much praise is due to the Colonization Society, but far more to the heroic men of color who went forth, at the peril of their lives, with no safeguard but Providence, to plant the seeds of liberty and Christianity in the most barbarous quarter of the world, and there, far away from the arm of any civilized Government, in the face of a fierce and mighty opposition, to rear the fabric of a free, well-ordered, and religious Commonwealth. It is true that this small company of brave adventurers in the cause of their race, have been assisted by teachers and guides from among the whites, and Heaven has smiled upon them; yet it is to their own awakened energy, their industry, resolution, courage, and faith in God that we must mainly attribute their success. The world has little observed, perhaps less applauded them. Probably not one in a thousand in this metropolis has any knowledge of their existence. Yet they have founded a Republican and Christian State in Africa which promises to grow and extend itself for ages, and constituted and adapted in the whole character of its institutions and laws to kindle the individual mind, and give full play to all those intellectual and moral faculties which, nobly exercised, exalt men to greatness, may prove a central light and power to revive and renovate their country and their race.

"But to be more specific in regard to the principles embodied and developed in the Colony of Liberia.

"It is designed for a national and independent political existence.

"Its institutions are republican, or in the hands of the people.

"Control over them is reserved to the people of color.

"Slavery can have no existence within the limits of the Colony.

"All transactions with the native tribes are to be conducted on principles of exact justice.

"Both law and practice are in hostility to the slave trade.

"Provision is to be made for universal education.

"No preference is to be given to any religious sect, but perfect and therefore equal toleration is secured to all.

"Missionaries of all Christian denominations among the native Africans are to be countenanced and encouraged in their work.

"Colored emigrants are aided by the Society during six months after their arrival, receive donations of land, and having taken possession of the same, and cultivated a few acres, become entitled to all the privileges of citizenship.

"Various, recent, and unexceptionable testimony from sources, English as well as American, might be adduced to show how these principles, incorporated in its constitution, laws, and the manners and sentiments of its citizens, are so well adapted to make it a contented, enterprising, improving, religious community, aiding to suppress the slave-trade and to diffuse a knowledge of civilization and Christianity among the native African tribes."

#### AFRICAN MISSION.

*Extract from a Letter of the Rev. O. K. Canfield: Monrovia, Mar. 23, 1841.*

OUR voyage was, from the roughness of the sea, unpleasant. We encountered three successive gales, one of which caused us to "lie to" 36 hours. We came near being wrecked on Bonavista, one of the Cape de Verd Islands, owing to the inaccuracy of the chronometer. It was a

degree and a half too far to the East, so that instead of being 30 miles to the East of the Islands, we were among them. It was night, and the atmosphere was very smoky, so that we could see only a short distance.—A few minutes past 12 M., we heard a cry of “land!” Most of us went on deck. Soon there came a second cry, in a tone of fear, “breakers a-head!” In a moment, all saw and heard them. We had just time to tack. The wind at this time freshened and changed a point or two, enabling us to stand off. A few moments more, and we must have struck. The Lord directed. The skill of man was nothing. In the morning, it was found that we had passed by a narrow and dangerous channel, between the Islands of Bonavista and Sal, where many a vessel has been wrecked, and where the Captain would not have ventured in the day time.

During the voyage we have, after the second Sabbath, had regular service; one sermon and such other instruction as we could give, with morning and evening worship in the cabin. There was always good attendance and attention.

The Governor and colonists have received us with much kindness.—During the day we are on shore, but according to our old plan, we sleep in the vessel. This plan is opposed by our friends, who wish us to remain on shore. It would be pleasant to do so, but we are afraid of taking the fever and being sick on board of the vessel.

On our arrival at this place, we found a letter from Mr. WILSON, stating that arrangements are made in anticipation of our return. He wishes us to remain in private families. This we may do for a few weeks, but fully expect to rent a house as soon as possible.

The tornado season has just commenced. It rains some during the night, but the days are all dry and pleasant.

After adverting to some cases of sickness that were commonly attributed to peculiar exposure, Mr. C. adds:—

Gov. B. has just returned from Cape Palmas, and says that all there and at the intermediate colonies, are enjoying good health. I may be too sanguine, but I cannot yet think, that this part of the coast is peculiarly unhealthy. I hope we may be spared, should God call us away soon, from the common remark, and a true one often, “they died from their own imprudence.”

Kroomen and the Kroo country are attracting more and more notice. . . . Since we were here, a large number of trading factories have been erected at Settra Kroo, some English, some American, and some Colonial. Their trade is desirable for palm oil and camwood. . . . How we may be affected by them remains to be proved. On our way down the coast, we hope to be able to call at Kroo country. The Kroomen here are very glad to see us, and tell us that all their people are looking for us. As soon as we can, operations shall be commenced among them.

. . . . Remember us all to the Executive Committee and all friends. Your constant and fervent prayers are requested. We feel in some measure our responsibility and weakness. All the glory shall be given to God alone. CECILIA and ABRAHAM are well; CECILIA is delighted with the prospect of doing good. Our wives are happily disappointed in all that they see and hear, save the pitiable condition of the natives. The God of grace be with you.—*Miss' Chronicle.*

FROM Western Africa the missionaries write in language very urgent. In a recent report they say:—

“Contemplating the prospects of our mission, they are cheering in all respects, except this one, the difficulty of procuring laborers. We are inadequate, totally so, to perform one-half of the labor which devolves upon us, and we are compelled to see day by day, things left undone, which it



seems highly desirable should be done. We see multitudes of our fellow-beings in the vicinity of our mission, who might, if the claims of the Gospel were faithfully addressed to their consciences, become the disciples of Jesus Christ, and heirs of everlasting glory; but who are, from the want of some one to lead them to the Saviour and point them to the road of everlasting happiness, left to grope their way in the midnight of moral darkness. These things painfully afflict our hearts, but without more help we cannot do any thing to change the prospects of the people, or to alleviate their wretchedness.

“Can not there be found men whose hearts pant to enter upon this field of labor? It seems to us highly desirable that at least seven or eight missionaries should be sent out to Africa with as little delay as possible. One or two to strengthen this mission, three to found a new station on the Ivory coast, and at least three for the country bordering on the Niger. We specify this number, not because we think it all or the half or even the tenth part of those who might be advantageously employed in building up the kingdom of Jesus Christ in this benighted land, but because it is as large a number, judging from the past, as we may reasonably expect. The field has hardly any assignable limits. We could, upon our own knowledge of the country, scanty as it is, designate locations of a most interesting character for at least one hundred missionaries, almost the whole of which must, we fear, for many a long day, remain as it has for centuries past, a scene of desolation and moral ruin.”

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**THE COLONIZATION CAUSE.**—At a called meeting of the Board of Managers of the Colonization Society of Virginia, held at the office of JOSEPH MAYO, Esq., on the afternoon of Monday, the 2d August, 1841:—

Present—Wm. H. Macfarland, Nicholas Mills, Francis H. Deane, Joseph Mayo, Corresponding Secretary, Benjamin Brand, Treasurer, Fleming James, Recording Secretary.

On motion, WM. H. MACFARLAND was appointed Chairman.

Mr. SHEPHERD, an Agent of the American Colonization Society, addressed the meeting, stating that the Parent Society greatly desire to despatch a vessel for Liberia, to sail from Norfolk during the coming Fall with probably one hundred emigrants, and that to accomplish this important object considerable additional funds must be raised, which we hope this meeting would contribute their aid in effecting, by taking such steps immediately as might be deemed most expedient:—

Whereupon, on motion, Wm. H. Macfarland, Nicholas Mills, Benjamin Brand, Joseph Mayo, Francis H. Deane and Fleming James were appointed a committee to wait on the Rev. Clergy of this city, and request them to preach on the subject in their respective churches at an early day, and take up collections in behalf of the Society.

The following preamble and resolution were then submitted to the meeting and adopted:—

In view of the necessity which exists of raising money for the embarkation of one hundred emigrants from Norfolk early in the ensuing Autumn,

*Resolved*, That the case presents a strong appeal to the friends of the Society, and that the Agent, Mr. SHEPHERD, now engaged in collecting the necessary funds, be recommended to the kind regard of our fellow-citizens, and that they be assured they will essentially aid the cause of Colonization, and advance one of the most interesting efforts of the Society, by making him the receptacle of their liberal contributions.

And then the meeting adjourned.

WM. H. MACFARLAND, *Chairman*.

FLEMING JAMES, *Secretary*.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

WE insert below some specimens of the weather in Liberia. It is with great reluctance that people will believe that it is not *scorching* hot there. The tables below, however, will convince any one who believes in figures and a thermometer, that the heat which we have lately experienced in this city is not equalled in Liberia. The instrument used in the observations was placed in the hall of the Government House, which is open at each end, and at one door receives the land, and at the other the sea, breeze.

1840.

JANUARY.					MAY.				
DAYS.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	RAIN.	REMARKS.	DAYS.	6 A.M.	12 M.	6 P.M.
1	77	82	80	—		1	82	90	84
2	79	82	80	—		2	83	00	85
3	78	82	79	—		3	82	88	83
4	79	84	79½	—		4	81	88	82
5	79	82	79	—		5	82	87	85
6	79	79	78½	350		6	79	86	85
7	77	81	79	—		7	82	88	81
8	77	80	79	—		8	76	88	82
9	79	83	79	—					
10	79	83	83	—					
11	80	83	81	—					
12	76	78	78	163					
13	79	83	81	—					
14	74	76	75	775	7 o'clock a. m., Ther. 73°				
15	76	81	80	—					
16	77	83	78	—					
17	77	80	78	—					
18	75	82	79	—					
19	77	82	80	—					
20	77	82	79	—					
21	76	82	79	—					
22	78	83	80	—					
23	77	83	80	—					
24	79	78	82	—					
25	74	81	79	—	7 a. m., Th. 68°				
26	75	81	78	—					
27	75	82	79	—					
28	77	82	80	—					
29	80	84	80	—					
30	79	84	81	—					
31	77	84	80	—					
Av. 77½, 81 7-10, 79 2-5, 973, at 9, 3 and 9 o'clock.									
Extremes, 68-84, including all observations.									
Mean Temp., 79½, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.									

  

AUGUST.					SEPTEMBER.				
DAYS.	6 A.M.	12 M.	6 P.M.	RAIN.	DAYS.	6 A.M.	12 M.	6 P.M.	RAIN.
16	77	83	80	—	4	76	78	78	—
17	78	80	78	—	5	76	80	77	—
18	77	79	78	—					
19	76	78	78	—					
20	76	78	77	—					
21	75	80	76	—					
22	75	77	76	—					
23	76	80	78	—					

## NOTICES.

☞ All debts due in Pennsylvania for the Colonization Herald, and African Repository, will be remitted to Rev. J. B. PINNEY, Colonization Rooms, No. 66 South Sixth street, Philadelphia; also all notices for discontinuances in that State.

☞ All debts due in New York for the African Repository, will be remitted to Rev. A. PROBERT, D. D., New York city; also all notices for discontinuances in that State.